

Standard 7-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the impact of imperialism throughout the world in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

7-4.3 Explain the causes and effects of the Spanish-American War and its reflection of the United States' interest in imperial expansion, including this nation's acquisition of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam; its temporary occupation of Cuba; and its rise as a world power. (G, H)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand /Conceptual Knowledge Explain

Previous/future knowledge:

In 5th grade, students summarized actions by the United States that contributed to the rise of the nation as a world power, including the annexation of new territory following the Spanish-American War (5-3.6).

In US History, students will analyze the development of American expansionism (USHC-6.1) and explain the influence of the Spanish-American War on the emergence of the United States as a world power, including reasons for America's declaring war on Spain (USHC-6.2).

It is essential for students to know:

In 1823, President James Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine, which stated that the Americas were off limits to further European colonization. A test of the Monroe Doctrine came with Cuba's fight for independence from Spain. Cuba declared independence from Spain in 1868, and fought unsuccessfully for ten years to gain emancipation. In 1895, Jose Marti launched the second attempt for independence. During the 1890s, the US gained economic interests in Cuba. The **Spanish-American War** was caused in 1898 when the U.S. assisted Cuba in their fight for independence, claiming the Monroe Doctrine as justification for involvement.

The US sent the *USS Maine* into Havana Harbor to protect its national interests. The explosion of the *USS Maine*, which the Americans attributed to a Spanish mine, led to the American declaration of war against Spain. This declaration of war delighted the American newspapers, which were scrambling for the most sensational and competitive headlines, a style known as yellow journalism. The Spanish-American War lasted four months, with the US first attacking the Philippine Islands (another Spanish possession), resulting in a two-front (two ocean) war. Following the war, the US gained the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico as territories. Rather than recognizing Cuban independence, the US placed a military government in Cuba and exerted control over the country's affairs, leading to resentment on the part of Cubans. Guantanamo Bay in Cuba was leased by the US in order to establish a major naval base on the island. Filipinos did not receive independence either.

The effect of the Spanish-American War was an increase in US imperialistic desires. In 1904, President Roosevelt issued the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, declaring the US as an international police power in the Western Hemisphere with justification to intervene in Latin America. In an expression of the growing political and economic power of the US, President Roosevelt sent the U.S. Navy, known as the Great White Fleet, on a world tour. Soon thereafter,

the U.S. intervened in the affairs of other nations, encouraging a Panamanian revolution against Colombia in exchange for the right to build the Panama Canal. The U.S. intervened increasingly in the affairs of Latin American countries, leading to an economic imperialism that established US supremacy in the Western Hemisphere.

It is not essential for students to know:

Specific details of the battles of the Spanish-American War are not necessary. The battle for independence in the Philippines and the construction of the Panama Canal, although fascinating to many, are not essential for student knowledge of this indicator.

Assessment guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to ***explain*** the causes and effects of the Spanish American War; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to verbalize and **construct cause-and-effect models** of the war. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to **recall** and explain how guerilla warfare, yellow journalism and competition for trade were significant causes of this war and that the effects of the war helped make the US a world power as it gained more territories.